1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						and FSL declared "Explosion of Incendiary bombs" and also recovered 4 live bombs from a suitcase

Unmanned Railway Crossings

2079. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway crossings in the State of Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) what are the plans before his Ministry for converting them into manned crossings;

(c) whether any study has been carried out to find out the vulnerable unmanned crossing in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps his Ministry has taken to man the above vulnerable unmanned crossings in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) The information on level crossings is maintained Zone wise and State wise but not District wise. However, as on 01.04.2006, there were 1,363 unmanned Level Crossings in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (e) As per extant rules, in case an unmanned level crossing provided initially and maintained at the cost of the Railways needs manning/ upgrading/posting of additional gatekeeper due to increase in road traffic, the cost both initial as well as recurring and maintenance has to be borne by the State Government/Road Authority concerned. However, keeping in view the grave consequences of accidents at unmanned level crossings, Railways have decided to man vulnerable level crossings based on the traffic volume and visibility conditions at the unmanned level crossings for which railways have laid down certain criteria. The vulnerable locations are also determined during periodical census done at Level Crossings. Manning of such level crossings found vulnerable in the census is done progressively.

Manning of Level Crossings is planned Zone wise and not State wise. However, all the level crossings qualifying the criteria of manning are planned for manning.

Container transport operations

2080. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreement between the Railways and 14 private players in containers operation;

(b) whether Government are considering more private investment in Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and areas identified for such investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) The Agreement has been framed keeping in view the best international practices being followed; it is bankable, ensures a level-playing field among various container train operators and adequately addresses the national & public interest perspective as also concerns of the private players.

(b) and (c) A number of areas/activities such as upgradation of stations at major metropolitan cities, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality areas have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership route.

Rail service from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin

2081. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a service organisation, it is not prudent to go for railway service to certain unserved areas;

(b) if so, in that process whether there would be a new railway service from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin *via* Keelakarai, Erwadi, Kamudhi,